

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.
2. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in an interview with attorney of record Michael Day (Reg. No 55,101) on January 27, 2010.
3. The application has been amended as follows:

a) In the Claims:

Claims 80-82 are canceled.

83. (currently amended) A method comprising the steps of :
receiving, at a client lookup manager, from a client computer, a request to access a network service, said client lookup manager having an associated cache, said client computer being an element of a distributed system, said distributed system comprising a plurality of lookup services with associated network services; and the client look up manager:

searching the associated cache for a service reference associated with an instance of the requested network service;

returning, when said searching step is successful, the instance of the requested network service to the client computer;

sending, when said searching step is unsuccessful, a request for the service reference to a lookup service, said service reference identifying the

requested network service, said request including an integer argument representing a desired maximum number of ~~matches to~~ references matching said service reference that should be returned; and

storing ~~returned service~~ said matching references in the associated cache.

84. (currently amended) The method according to claim 83, wherein the searching step further comprises searching a table of the plurality of lookup services and the associated network services for ~~the requested~~ said service ~~references~~ reference.

Claims 85-88 are canceled.

89. (currently amended) A computer-readable storage ~~medium~~ device containing instructions encoded thereon for a data client lookup manager to implement a method, the method comprising the steps :

receiving, at a client lookup manager, from a client computer, a request to access a network service, said client lookup manager having an associated cache, said client computer being an element of a distributed system, said distributed system comprising a plurality of lookup services with associated network services; and the client look up manager: searching the associated cache for a service reference associated with an instance of the requested network service;

returning, when said searching step is successful, the instance of the requested network service to the client computer;

sending, when said searching step is unsuccessful, a request for the service reference to a lookup service, said service reference identifying the requested network service, said request including an integer argument representing a desired maximum number of ~~matches to~~ references matching said service reference that should be returned; and

storing ~~returned service~~ said matching references in the associated cache.

90. (currently amended) The computer-readable storage ~~medium~~ device according to claim 89, wherein the searching step further comprises searching a table of the plurality of lookup services and associated network services for the ~~requested said~~ service ~~references~~ reference.

Claim 91 is canceled.

92. (currently amended) A distributed system comprising:

a server computer with a lookup service having references to a plurality of network services; and

a client computer including a client lookup manager with an associated cache, wherein said client lookup manager:

receives, from the client computer, a request to access a network service;

searches the associated cache for a service reference associated with an instance of the requested network service;

returns, when said searching step is successful, the instance of the requested network service to the client computer;

sends, when said searching step is unsuccessful, a request for the service reference to the lookup service, said service reference identifying the requested network service, said request including an integer argument representing a desired maximum number of ~~matches to~~ references matching said service reference that should be returned; and

stores ~~returned service~~ said matching references in the associated cache.

Claim 93 is canceled.

4. Claims 83,84,89,90 and 92 are allowable over prior art of record.
5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance or Examiner Amendment."
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faruk Hamza whose telephone number is 571-272-7969. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Saleh Najjar can be reached at 571-272-4006. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information

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for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 886-217-9197 (toll -free).

Faruk Hamza

Patent Examiner

Group Art Unit 2455

/Faruk Hamza/
Examiner, Art Unit 2455